

funding in the new law, because I believe that child care is essential to move people from welfare to work. Under the provisions we fought for, funding in the new child care block grant for States will increase this year from \$1.3 billion to \$1.9 billion. That means States will receive \$600 million more for child care this year than they would have received without the new law.

These steps build on the progress we have already made over the last 4 years to reform welfare and crack down on child support enforcement. Since I took office, the welfare rolls have dropped by 1.9 million; child support collections have increased by nearly 50 percent to a record \$11.8 billion; and last year's decline in the number of Americans in poverty was the largest one-year drop in 27 years. I am determined to keep working to make sure these trends continue moving in the right direction.

Memorandum on the Drawdown of Defense Department Commodities, Services, and Training for the Economic Community of West African States' Peacekeeping Force
September 30, 1996

Presidential Determination No. 96-56

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State,
Secretary of Defense*

Subject: Determination to Authorize the Drawdown of Commodities, Services, and Training from the Department of Defense for the Economic Community of West African States' Peacekeeping Force (ECOMOG) Under Section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2348(c)(2) ("the Act"), I hereby determine that:

(1) as a result of an unforeseen emergency, the provision of assistance under Chapter 6 of Part II of the Act in amounts in excess of funds otherwise available for such assistance is important to the national interests of the United States; and

(2) such unforeseen emergency requires the immediate provision of assistance under Chapter 6 of Part II of the Act.

I therefore direct the drawdown from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense of an aggregate value not to exceed \$10 million in commodities and services to provide assistance to states currently participating (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Mali), and for those states that may in the future participate, in ECOMOG to enhance ECOMOG's peacekeeping capabilities to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in Liberia.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1997

September 30, 1996

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3816, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1997."

The Act provides \$20 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs of the Department of Energy (DOE), portions of the Interior and Defense Departments, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and several smaller agencies.

The Act provides \$11.4 billion for atomic energy defense programs, \$0.3 billion above my request. I am disappointed that the Congress has funded unrequested increases for nuclear weapons management and related programs, while curtailing investments in important civilian activities. Nevertheless, I am pleased that the Act will provide for a significantly enhanced Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship and Management program that will continue DOE's strong commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile. This Act will also enable the Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management program to aggressively address the environmental legacy of previous weapons activities.